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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 32 | Min 23 | Humidity 52% Partly Cloudy Sensex 76,734 | Nifty 23,328 | Gold 93,194 | Silver 94,688 | Dollar 85.74 | Euro 97.81 | GBP 113.42

HOLY SEND-OFF

Eco-friendly initiative steps in offering a respectful and sustainable solution to disposing of religious items

PAGE 2

CHANCE OF RAIN

Met dept releases its initial monsoon rainfall forecast for 2025, predicting a moderate probability of above-normal rainfall for Karnataka

PAGE 6

More than 1 year has passed since BBMP finished the Gandhi Bazaar makeover project, but since renovation began, BMTC buses have stopped entering area as road has become too narrow

RUINS OF RENOVATION

People have to walk more than 1 km to access public transport

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

KAUSHIK JN

Months have passed since the Gandhi Bazaar makeover was completed by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

However, residents and traders on the stretch say they no longer have access to the public transport system.

"More than a year has passed since BBMP finished the project. However, we are still waiting for public transport to start functioning. BMTC buses have refused to enter the stretch due to the narrow road," lamented a resident.

Locals say many BMTC buses used to frequent the road before renovation began. Currently, a person willing to use public transport has to walk nearly one kilometre.

"BMTC buses have stopped coming in since renovation began more than three years ago. While the bus station has been retained at the same spot, buses are still not coming. We either have to walk nearly 700 metre to the north road or the same distance on the other side, towards Basavanagudi Police Station, to catch public transport. At least 2,000 to 3,000 workers commute every day to and from the main road. Over the last few years, they have had to walk nearly 1.5 kilometre to avail of public transport," said a resident.

> **"Before the project started, Gandhi Bazaar Main Road bus stop had more than 60 BMTC buses to every part of the city, arriving every five minutes. It was a historical bus stand, which is now desolated**
>
> —Resident of the area

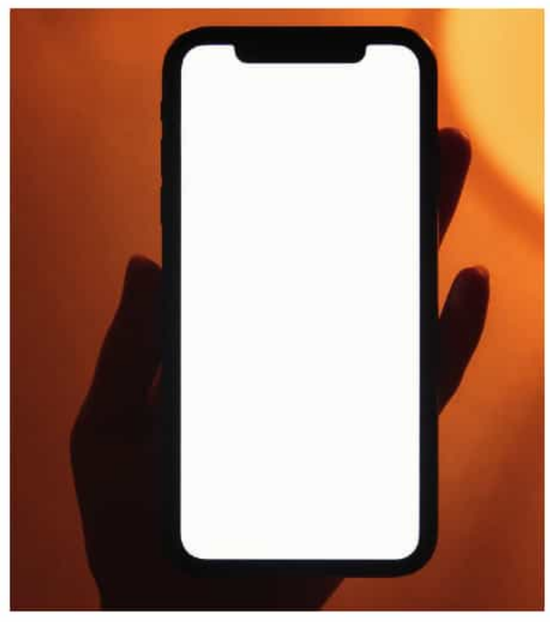
Residents and traders on the road say that while a representation was made to BMTC to restart the bus service, the corporation expressed its inability to do so due to reduced width after renovation.

Notably, the project to beautify Gandhi Bazaar Main Road was taken up by BBMP in 2022, and it was wrapped up last year.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

How the whip cracks

1,410 apps and websites including several foreign-based platforms banned; 357 of these directly linked to gambling



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In a sweeping action targeting the growing menace of illegal online gaming and betting, the Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI) has ordered the blocking of 1,410 apps and websites, including several foreign-based platforms. The action, taken under provisions of the Information Technology Act and GST laws, reflects the Centre's heightened focus on regulating the booming yet controversial digital gaming sector.

Authorities have identified and taken action against 1,410 apps and websites involved in illegal online gaming and betting activities. Of these, 357 apps were found to be directly linked to gambling and foreign betting operations.

In connection with these platforms, enforcement agencies have frozen 2,400 bank accounts used for illegal betting transactions and have seized ₹126 crore in separate enforcement actions.

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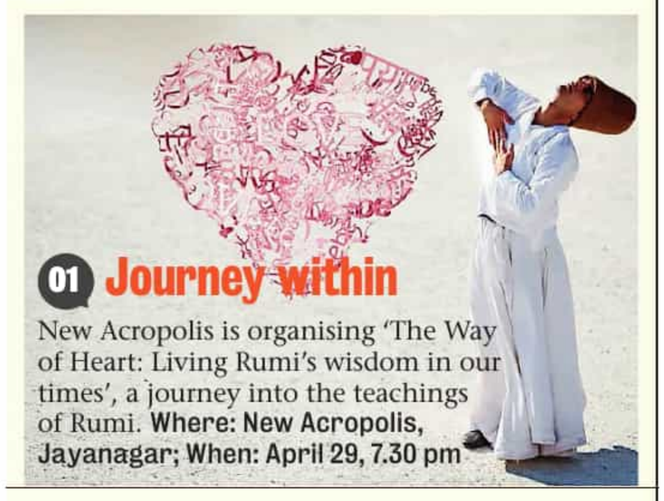
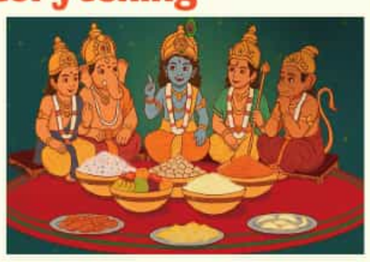
THINGS TO DO



01 Journey within

New Acropolis is organising 'The Way of Heart: Living Rumi's wisdom in our times', a journey into the teachings of Rumi. **Where: New Acropolis, Jayanagar; When: April 29, 7.30 pm**

02 Playful storytelling



Svasti Art Foundation is presenting 'When Gods Party...!', a dance theatre production featuring a playful and lighthearted celebration of gods. **Where: ADA Rangamandira, JC Road; When: April 25, 6.15 pm**

03 Sacred steps

Chiguru Nrithyalaya is presenting a Bharatanatyam performance to bring to life the divine essence and multifaceted nature of Lord Ayyappa. **Where: Ravindra Kalakshetra, Sampangi Rama Nagar; When: April 27, 6 pm**

04 Jam session

Windmills is presenting a weekend of world-fusion music with globe-trotting musician Denis Stern who has deep roots in flamenco, jazz, Latin, Gypsy, and Middle Eastern music. **Where: Windmills, Whitefield; When: April 18 and 19, 9.30 pm**

05 Theatrical spectacle

Ranga Shankara is presenting 'HELLO TO EMPTINESS', a performative reflection on social vulnerability and on how we deal with grief. **Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar; When: April 15 and 16, 7.30 pm**

Initiative fosters sustainable disposal of religious items

With goal to preserve tradition while nurturing and protecting nature, usable items are repurposed while objects damaged beyond repair are recycled respectfully

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Religious items donated for 'Udhvasana Pooja' conducted by Sri Kamakshi Aarsha Samskriti Trust

A unique initiative called 'Udhvasana Pooja' is being carried out across Bengaluru by Sri Kamakshi Aarsha Samskriti Trust, in collaboration with the Rotary Club of RT Nagar, providing people with a dignified and responsible way to dispose of sacred items such as idols, photos, pamphlets, and pooja articles, especially those that are damaged or no longer in use.

So far, over 10 tonnes of such items have been collected and processed through seven drives held since January. The next one is scheduled in October at Singasandra, and people are encouraged to participate.

Vasudha Sundar, a founding member of the Trust, stated that people often hesitate to give away religious items to dry waste collectors, fearing it might be disrespectful or sinful. "But then they dump them in lakes or open spaces. Isn't that also sacrilege to the environment and our values?" she said.

The initiative is deeply rooted in a commitment to preserving tradition while nurturing and protecting nature. Items that are still in good shape are separated, cleaned, and given a second life. The damaged ones are respectfully recycled through certified waste recovery facilities, owing to partnerships with organisations like Saahas and Hasiru Dala.

Before any material is handed over for recycling, a formal ritual called Visarjan Aarti is performed by a temple priest. This spiritual send-off acknowledges the sanctity of the items and offers emotional closure for those parting with them.

According to Sowmya Raghavan, Director of Club Services at Rotary Club RT Nagar, groups like the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and the Ploggers' Army have also joined hands, collecting discarded items from the public and bringing them to the drives. She explained that when idols were previously made of clay, immersing them in water was effective. "But now, many idols are made with plastic, glass, or other non-biodegradable materials, which cannot be immersed. That's why responsible disposal is the need of the hour," she said.

Before any material is handed over for recycling, a formal ritual called Visarjan Aarti is performed by a temple priest

She expressed that temples were ideal places to hold the drives. "Priests can perform the necessary rituals, and people feel more comfortable handing over sacred items in a spiritual setting," she added. The project is not just about disposal of religious items, but also about education and change. Organisers are ensuring that any excess funds from the drives, raised through the resale of usable items, are reinvested in dharma-based activities and zero-waste infrastructure.

To take part in the upcoming drive or to responsibly discard religious items, residents can write to ***skas.trust@gmail.com*** or ***cpp.hebbal@gmail.com***.

Although faith and sustainability may seem to be at odds, Bengaluru's 'Udhvasana Pooja' demonstrates that with a little compassion and creativity, the two can go hand-in-hand.

Webcasting surveillance for CET 2025 to ensure fairness

Apart from camera monitoring, authentication using facial recognition and QR code systems, mandatory dress code, and photo verification to help prevent malpractice during exam

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After the Secondary School Leaving Certificate (SSLC) and Second Pre-University (PU) exams, the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) will conduct the Common Entrance Test (CET) 2025 for admission to professional courses, including engineering, on April 16 and 17, as per an announcement by KEA Executive Director H Prasanna. The Physics and Chemistry exams will be held on April 16, followed by Mathematics and Biology on April 17.

Webcasting at all 775 exam centres

In a bid to prevent malpractice, the CET will implement surveillance similar to recruitment exams, with camera monitoring and live webcasting at all 775 examination centres across the state. Supervision will be overseen at the district level by Deputy Commissioners and Zilla Panchayat Chief Executing Officers (CEOs).

Strict identity verification for candidates

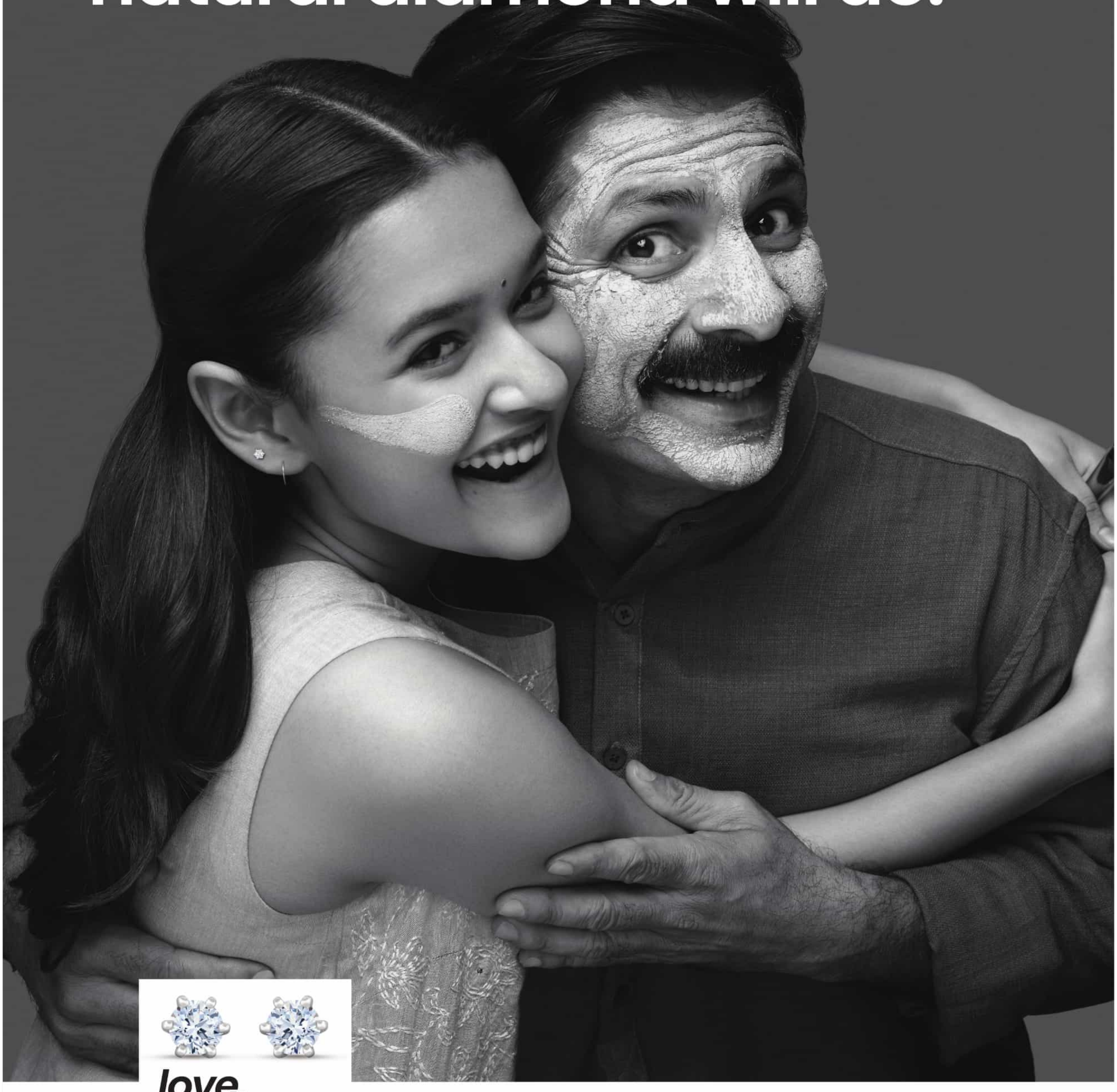
Candidates will be allowed entry into exam halls only after undergoing detailed security checks by police and home guards. They are instructed to report to the exam centre at least 90 minutes in advance to allow time for verification. Candidates' identity will be authenticated using facial recognition and QR code systems, aimed at preventing impersonation during the examination. KEA has also introduced a mandatory dress code for added transparency and discipline.

Admission based on photo verification

To further secure the admission process, Karnataka Examinations Authority will be ensuring that candidates' photographs will be matched during college seat allotment to confirm their identity. Prasanna noted that students who scored low or failed in the first attempt of Second PU exams should not skip CET, as they still have an opportunity to improve their scores in subsequent exams. Candidates who have paid the exam fee should download their admit cards and take the test as scheduled. Karnataka Examinations Authority will consider scores from the third Second PU exam for eligibility, ensuring no candidate is deprived of an opportunity due to previously scored low marks.

Candidates will be allowed entry into exam halls only after undergoing detailed security checks, hence are instructed to report to the exam centre at least 90 minutes in advance

Love so natural, only a natural diamond will do.



love, from dad
COLLECTION
FOR SECOND PIERCING

FIND A JEWELLER

DE BEERS
A DIAMOND IS FOREVER

White topping delay makes it hard for JC Road to breathe

JC Road work drags on, choking commuters in dust and chaos; locals urge civic agency to complete work before monsoon to reduce further disruption

Ongoing civic work is causing traffic congestion on JC Road

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JC Road is one of the busiest roads in the city. It is also one of the roads notified for white topping. The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) took up white topping JC Road a few months ago. However, the delay in completing the work has caused inconvenience to thousands of motorists and pedestrians. Coping with dust has become not only a tough task but also a health hazard for two-wheeler riders, auto-rickshaw drivers, and street vendors.

They said the shifting of utilities began six months ago, and ongoing digging on JC Road is generating a lot of dust. "I have been selling bananas on the footpath for the last three decades. I am the most affected due to pollution. I was compelled to be at home for 10 days as I was not able to do business due to the dust. I appeal to the authorities to complete the ongoing work as early as possible," said Chinna Thambi, a street vendor.

Expressing concern over the dust and pollution on JC Road, Roopa, a lecturer working at a private college, said that she has to wear a mask to protect herself from the dust. "I am finding it difficult to go to college due to pollution. It would be better if the BBMP authorities complete the ongoing work as early as possible. I hope the authorities concerned complete the work before the onset of monsoon," Roopa said.

> **"I was not able to do business due to dust. I appeal to the authorities to complete the ongoing work as early as possible** – Chinna T, vendor

Expressing a similar opinion, Anika, a teacher, said the white topping work is not progressing as expected. "The condition of the road is worsening day by day. I expected the white-topping work to be completed by March end but it is progressing at a snail's pace. I want the BBMP authorities to inspect the progress of the ongoing work and ensure shifting of utilities is completed without further delay," Anika said.

Auto rickshaw drivers complain that it takes more time to reach Town Hall Junction from Minerva Circle during the peak hours. "With digging on the right side of the road being incomplete, the width of the road is reduced, thus causing traffic jams. We need 30 minutes to reach the Town Hall Junction from Minerva Circle," said John T, an auto rickshaw driver.

Bike taxi ban triggers tug of war between industry, experts

Following the Karnataka High Court's directive to halt bike taxi operations, IAMAI (Internet and Mobile Association of India) has requested that the state government establish a joint committee to develop bike taxi guidelines.

IAMAI addressed a letter to Dr NV Prasad, Principal Secretary, Department of Transport, emphasising the necessity of establishing regulatory guidelines for bike taxis to safeguard numerous livelihoods across the state.

The organisation highlighted, "Bike taxis have become an integral part of the public transportation ecosystem, particularly in Tier-1 cities like Bengaluru. With increasing traffic congestion and limited public transport options, bike taxis offer a convenient and cost-effective solution for lakhs of daily commuters and similarly provide livelihood opportunities for gig workers across the State."

> **Association urged the government to form a joint committee with transport officials, industry reps, and bike taxi unions to draft guidelines**

The association requested the formation of a joint committee consisting of transport department officials, industry representatives, and bike taxi unions to contribute to guideline development, whilst allowing temporary permits for compliant aggregators during the policy formation period.

IAMAI advocated for balanced regulations ensuring safe bike taxi services and improved urban mobility. "The industry is willing to coordinate and collaborate with the State Government in furtherance of the formulation of guidelines for bike taxis in the State of Karnataka. In view of the above, we request an urgent meeting to discuss collaborative next steps," stated the letter. On April 2, the Karnataka High Court ruled that bike taxi aggregators must cease operations without government guidelines under section 93 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, affecting companies like Rapido, Uber and Ola, with a six-week suspension period.

Urban mobility specialist Satya Arikutharam criticised IAMAI's approach, viewing it as industry lobbying. He noted that the court hadn't instructed the government to create regulations but rather ordered operators to cease activities.

Arikutharam suggested that bike taxi riders could seek employment in states permitting such services or in the delivery sector. He urged the government to announce the termination date for bike taxi operations and enhance auto rickshaw and taxi operations.

Justice BM Shyam Prasad acknowledged that the Motor Vehicles Act permits motorcycles' registration as transport vehicles, contrary to the state's position. He noted that aggregators had operated through interim orders since 2021 without proper legal standing.

The judge cautioned the government against inaction, stating, "The State Government must be alive to the emerging circumstances and the evolving local conditions, and it cannot shut itself off to the possibilities of the emerging trends and technologies."

He added, "An institution which refuses change becomes the architect of decay." — BMB

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◎ Abandoned vehicle

Magadi Road

A car has been abandoned for months at the Railway Station Metro entrance (Leprosy Hospital Exit), Magadi Road, obstructing traffic and causing congestion. Authorities must take immediate action.

◎ Brake alert

Jayanagar

Two poorly constructed humps just 20 metres apart on 38th Cross Road, Jayanagar 9th Block, are forcing vehicles to brake abruptly.

◎ Road trouble

Chikkabanavara

The poor condition of the road near the Janapriya Apartment bus stop in Chikkabanavara is causing traffic disruptions.

Atrocity cases now under DCRE

Karnataka launches 33 DCRE police stations to swiftly investigate atrocities and improve conviction rates

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Karnataka has become the first state in South India to launch a dedicated force of 33 DCRE(Directorate of Civil Rights Enforcement) police stations focused solely on addressing atrocities against Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs). The operations launched on Monday (April 14), to mark the birth anniversary of Dr BR Ambedkar, the initiative aims to deliver swift justice and empathetic handling of cases, backed by a gender-balanced force of over 780 police personnel equally divided between male and female officers and guided by more than 33 senior officials.

Bengaluru alone has two police stations, one in the east division and another in the west division, each with three senior police officials and 30 staff. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, while officially announcing the launch of DCRE police stations at Vidhana Soudha during the Ambedkar Jayanti celebrations, noted that although the DCRE currently has limited staff, efforts will be made to strengthen the unit by deputing personnel as per the sanctioned strength. He also mentioned that additional staff will be sanctioned based on the number of cases registered.

Speaking to BM, a senior official from the DCRE shared, "While we may not have an exact count of female officers appointed, our focus has always been on ensuring equal representation. We are committed to maintaining a 50:50 ratio of male and female officers. Since the responsibilities are the same for everyone, and our shared goal is to address atrocities against Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), we emphasise teamwork and equality over numbers."

The move comes in response to dismally low conviction rates—only 3.71%—under the Act, as reported during a High-Powered Vigilance and Monitoring Committee meeting chaired by the Chief Minister last September 2023. Recognising the need for structural reforms, the government pledged to empower the DCRE to not just enquire but investigate atrocities, thus addressing long-standing gaps in justice delivery.

The DCRE, first constituted in 1974, has so far operated without the power to register FIRs or independently probe cases. Now, under the new order issued on April 11, 2025, DCRE officers are authorised to take over investigations from jurisdictional police, follow due procedures under the Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, and submit reports directly to Special Courts.

BM WoW Wednesday
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Which famous Bengaluru park was created in 1760 as a private garden for the Wodeyar family?
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|| Jai Sri Gurudev ||

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Above-normal monsoon for state: IMD forecast

Early forecast shows 59% chance of strong rains; light showers, thunderstorms expected in parts of state on April 16

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Karnataka is expected to receive scattered rain and thubderstorms due to the evolving weather systems

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has released its initial monsoon rainfall forecast for 2025, predicting a moderate probability of above-normal rainfall for Karnataka. While the forecast is based on early data from March, it indicates favourable conditions for the upcoming monsoon season. The South West Monsoon typically begins in the first week of June, bringing substantial rainfall across Karnataka.

After a deficit monsoon in 2023, Karnataka witnessed improved rainfall in 2024. The forecast for 2025 now points towards a continued positive trend. According to Mr Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, Director General of IMD, there is a 59% probability that the southwest monsoon's seasonal rainfall will be above normal.

"Currently, neutral El Nino-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) conditions prevail over the equatorial Pacific region, and climate models suggest these conditions will persist throughout the monsoon season. Similarly, neutral Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) conditions are observed over the Indian Ocean, and they are expected to remain stable. Generally, a positive IOD supports favourable monsoon rainfall. A more detailed forecast will be issued in May, which will provide clearer insights," he said.

> **"Currently, neutral El Nino-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) conditions prevail over the equatorial Pacific region, and climate models suggest these conditions will persist throughout the monsoon season**
> – Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, Director General of IMD

Rains for next few upcoming days

Meanwhile, the IMD has also issued a short-term weather update, forecasting light rain and thunderstorms across various regions of Karnataka on April 16. Dr N Puviarasan, a scientist at the Bengaluru chapter of IMD provided a detailed forecast based on the current synoptic features in the state. "The weather conditions are influenced by a trough extending from West Rajasthan to the Gulf of Mannar, along with an upper-air cyclonic circulation over the Gulf of Mannar and the southwest Bay of Bengal.

These systems are expected to bring scattered weather activity. In Coastal Karnataka, Dakshina Kannada is likely to receive light to moderate rain or thunderstorms, while Udupi may experience light showers. Uttara Kannada is expected to remain dry.

North Interior Karnataka is likely to stay mostly dry, though places like Haveri may see light rain and gusty winds (30–40 km/h). South Interior Karnataka could witness rain and thundershowers with strong winds in Chikkamagaluru, Kodagu, Hassan, and Mysuru, while areas like Tumakuru, Mandya, Chamarajanagar, Ramanagara, Bengaluru Rural, Bengaluru Urban, Chikkaballapura, and Kolar may receive light to moderate rainfall.

The IMD has advised residents to remain alert, especially in areas vulnerable to thunderstorms and gusty winds", he added.

Karnataka lone state to hit quotas in police, judiciary

Karnataka has once again retained its position as the top-performing large state in the India Justice Report (IJR) 2025, emerging as the only state to meet SC/ST/OBC reservation quotas in both the police force and judiciary. Among 18 large and mid-sized states assessed on their justice delivery systems, Karnataka not only stood first overall but also topped the Legal Aid category and ranked second in the Prisons pillar. The IJR 2025 report tracks the performance of states across four pillars — Police, Judiciary, Prisons, and Legal Aid based on budgets, human resources, diversity, infrastructure, and trends over a five-year period.

Key highlights

Karnataka's lead in legal aid was driven by its highest ratio of paralegal volunteers—7.59 per lakh population and a strong representation of women, with 44% of panel lawyers being female, the highest in the country. However, the number of legal service clinics in villages declined sharply from 174 in 2021–22 to just 32 in 2023–24, signalling an urgent need for revival in rural outreach.

Police performance

In terms of policing, Karnataka recorded the lowest officer-level vacancy in the country at just 1.2%. Constable-level vacancies were reduced by half in a year, from 12% to 6%. Notably, it remains the only state to fulfil SC/ST/OBC quotas at both officer and constable levels. Additionally, 99% of police stations have women's help desks, and the state utilised 98.5% of funds allocated under the police modernisation scheme, the highest in the country.

Prison reforms

Karnataka's prisons ranked second nationally, with a notable 33% of staff being women and improved video conferencing facilities in jails, rising from 68% in 2021 to 93% in 2022. However, medical staffing remains a concern, with 74% of medical officer posts and 64% of other medical staff positions lying vacant.

Judicial strength

On the judicial front, Karnataka improved gender representation with 37% women judges in district courts and filled all SC, ST, and OBC reserved posts. Judicial vacancies declined from 22% in 2022 to 16% in 2025, while High Court staff vacancies dropped from 26% to 17%. Yet, the state recorded a concerning rise in under trial inmates, now comprising 80% of the prison population—the highest since 2015. — BMB

IN BRIEF

Track glitch halts metro

Commuters on Namma Metro's Green Line faced yet another inconvenience on Tuesday after a technical snag led to service disruption for over half an hour. According to BMRCL, operations were affected between 3:28 pm and 4:05 pm due to emergency repairs near Mahalakshmi Station to fix a minor track defect. Frustrated passengers raised concerns over the recurring issues. BMRCL said the repair was swiftly carried out with safety as the priority, and normal services resumed soon after. — BMB

Chain snatching gang nabbed

Following a chain-snatching incident on March 3 at Jayamahal Main Road, where two bikers robbed an elderly woman under the pretext of asking for an address, JC Nagar police arrested four members of a gang from Nagpur and recovered 87 grams of gold worth ₹6 lakh.

The gang was led by Shahid (34), a habitual offender previously jailed under the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA). After his release in January, he formed a gang with relatives, purchased a second-hand bike, changed its number plate, and entered Bengaluru with a pillion rider, while two others followed in a car.

They targeted senior citizens in residential areas. CCTV footage from the incident led police to track over 150 surveillance clips and analyse call records. After fleeing to Bagepalli and handing over the loot to an associate, the gang regrouped in Mysuru, where they were arrested at Bannimantap while having breakfast. Those arrested include Shabbir, Tanveer, and Ali Naki, all from Nagpur. The arrest helped solve three cases and averted further crimes.. — BMB

Bavarian minister visits BOSCO

Dr Florian Herrmann, Minister for Federal Affairs and Head of the State Chancellery of Bavaria, Germany, visited BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan, a care centre for underprivileged girl children in Chamrajpet, Bengaluru. He was accompanied by a delegation from the Bavarian government, which currently supports social programs in Karnataka under the leadership of Minister-President Dr Markus Soder. The children welcomed the guests with a lively band performance and traditional dance. Dr Herrmann toured the centre's Skill Training unit, which offers tailoring and beautician courses to help girls from marginalised backgrounds find employment. He called the visit the most meaningful part of his India tour. In an interactive Q&A session, he spoke with the children about Bavarian culture, education, and food. He received a handmade painting from a student and gifted school bags, encouraging the children to focus on their studies. — BMB

Court allows CID in loan case

The Karnataka High Court granted permission on Tuesday to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) to submit its chargesheet to the Special Court regarding a case involving BJP MLA and former minister Ramesh Jarkiholi and two others. The case concerns the violation of loan conditions amounting to Rs 439 crore from the Karnataka Cooperative Apex Bank and its affiliated banks.

Justice Pradeep Singh Yerur, presiding as a single judge, stated, "Given the petitioner having participated and cooperated in the investigation, the respondent state having conducted the investigation and ready to file the chargesheet, it may be filed before the special court. Upon filing of the chargesheet, the special court shall not precipitate the matter till further orders are passed by this court."

When the court enquired about the petitioner's status in the final report, the prosecutor confirmed his implication. The prepared chargesheet spans over 2,000 pages and is scheduled for submission this week.

The ruling came during the hearing of a petition by Jarkiholi, Vasant V Patil and Shankar A Pawade, who sought to nullify the FIR registered at Vishveshwarapuram police station under Sections 406,420,34 of the Indian Penal Code.

The petitioner's counsel presented that the directors of Soubhagya Laxmi Sugars Ltd had submitted their resignations. The complaint suggested that the act of resignation itself constituted an offence. The counsel explained that the guarantors had committed to maintaining their guarantor status until loan settlement. —BMB

Teacher wins bus injury case

The Karnataka High Court affirmed a Motor Accidents Claims Tribunal's order granting compensation to a teacher who sustained hand and elbow injuries due to a bus driver's reckless driving over road humps. Justice Dr Chillakur Sumalatha, in a single-bench ruling, rejected the appeal by the Divisional Controller, Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation, against the tribunal's order dated October 29, 2022, which awarded Rs 6,60,100 to Shyamala B.

The court stated, "The compensation that is granted under all heads is reasonable. The order of the Tribunal discloses discussion on every aspect of the case. This Court, therefore, is of the view that the compensation that is granted by the Tribunal is highly justifiable. Thus, there are no grounds to interfere with the well-reasoned order of the Tribunal."

The claimant had stated that on October 30, 2016, whilst travelling in the bus, the driver's rash handling over road humps caused her right elbow to impact the window's glass and iron frame, resulting in crush injury, comminuted fracture, and elbow joint dislocation.

The Corporation contested that Shyamala's account was untrue, claiming she had negligently positioned her elbow outside the window, causing it to collide with another vehicle. The claimant opposed the appeal, maintaining that her injuries resulted from the driver's negligent conduct, which she had demonstrated before the Tribunal. The court noted that merely making a claim doesn't warrant its consideration without convincing supporting evidence. The appeal was consequently dismissed. —BMB

GST fraud unveiled: PAN and Aadhaar misused

Complainant's identity is exploited to obtain fake GST number, highlighting rising trend of cyber fraud; authorities urge vigilance & regular monitoring of tax statuses

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In a recent case that underscores the growing threat of cyber fraud, a complainant has reported a serious instance of identity misuse involving the unauthorised issuance of a Goods and Services Tax (GST) number using their PAN and Aadhaar details.

According to the complaint lodged at the CEN (Central Economic Narcotics) police station (North-East) division, an unknown individual used the complainant's PAN card and Aadhaar number to obtain a fake GST registration in the complainant's name. The fraud came to light when the complainant received an email from the tax department regarding financial transactions linked to the GST account for the fiscal year 2025–26.

Upon verifying the information through the official Income Tax portal, the complainant discovered that these transactions did not match any of their financial activities. This led to the realisation that their PAN credentials had been misused, prompting them to identify the issue as a case of cybercrime.

The complainant has now urged authorities to investigate the matter thoroughly, trace the person responsible for this fraudulent activity, and take appropriate legal action.

Growing cybercrime trend

This incident is not an isolated one. Cases of fake GST registrations using stolen identities have been on the rise, causing significant distress to genuine taxpayers. Fraudsters often use PAN and Aadhaar details obtained through phishing or data breaches to register fake businesses, which are then used for issuing bogus invoices or laundering money.

In the year 2024, nearly 10 cases of Adhaar misuse were reported, but the authorities have warned that this is a growing trend where the Aadhaar and PAN information is misused.

Similarly, the Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI) in Bengaluru uncovered a significant GST fraud involving ₹3,200 crore on January 29, 2025. The investigation revealed that the accused established 15 shell companies without genuine business operations. These entities engaged in circular trading to artificially inflate turnover and fraudulently availed and passed on fake Input Tax Credit (ITC) totalling ₹665 crore. Notably, nine of these companies were listed on Indian stock exchanges, and the GST returns for most were filed from common IP addresses, indicating centralised control. Two individuals were arrested in connection with the case, while a third suspect remains at large.

> **Authorities are tightening verification & urging vigilance. Regularly checking PAN and GST status helps prevent fraud**

Authorities are tightening verification processes and urging individuals to remain vigilant. Regularly monitoring one's PAN and GST status online and promptly reporting any suspicious activity are crucial steps in safeguarding against such fraud.

IN BRIEF

CCB's anti-drug sweep nets big

The CCB's (Central Crime Branch) Anti-Narcotics Squad has seized contraband such as MDMA crystals and hydroponic ganja, worth a staggering ₹6.79 crore in three separate operations.

The Anti-Narcotics Squad of the CCB arrested a foreign national, Christian Sopuruchukwu, for trafficking MDMA crystals, a banned drug, in the Begur police station limits. Based on a tip-off, the team conducted a raid and seized 1 kg of MDMA crystal, an electronic weighing machine, a mobile phone, a two-wheeler, and other items worth ₹2 crore.

The accused, who arrived in India on a business visa in 2012, procured the drug from a contact in Bengaluru with the intent to earn quick money. Investigations revealed he was selling the substance at ₹20,000 per gram to college students and IT professionals. He was also found to be residing illegally using forged documents. The accused and seized items were handed over to the Begur Police.

On the other hand, recently, a Civil Engineer, Buji Prasad(24) from Kerala Nabbed in Bengaluru with Hydrophonic Ganja Worth ₹4.52 Crore in the Electronic City and Bommasandra areas. Acting on a tip-off received on April 8, officers raided a location behind D-Mart in Electronic City Phase 2 and arrested the accused, seizing 1 kg 50 gms of the banned substance.

Further investigation led police to his rented apartment in Bommasandra, where an additional 2 kg 454 gms of hydroponic ganja, ₹26.06 lakh in cash, and a mobile phone were recovered. The total value of the seized items is estimated at ₹4.52 crore. The accused, who styled himself as a techie, packed the contraband in 100-gram airtight covers to avoid suspicion. He was selling the drug at ₹12,000 per gram to IT employees. Police are currently on the lookout for his accomplice. A case under the NDPS Act has been registered.

In another case, the CCB Anti-Narcotics Squad busted an interstate drug racket and arrested eight peddlers from Kerala at a lodge in Attur Layout, Yelahanka New Town. Acting on a tip-off received on April 9, the team raided the premises and seized 110 grams of MDMA crystal, 10 mobile phones, one tablet, an electronic weighing machine, and two cars — all valued at ₹27 lakh.

The accused, originally from Kerala, had migrated to Bangalore for work. However, lured by quick profits, they turned to selling banned substances. During interrogation, they revealed that they purchased MDMA at low prices from foreign dealers operating in the city and sold it to college students and IT/BT employees for ₹15,000–₹20,000 per gram. The seized contraband and arrested individuals have been handed over to the Yelahanka New Town Police. A case under the NDPS Act has been registered, and further investigation is underway. —Sanjana CS

Business suffers as footfalls dip

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Before the project started, Gandhi Bazaar Main Road bus stop had more than 60 BMTC buses to every part of the city, arriving every five minutes. It was a historical bus stand, which is now desolated. Nearly a hundred families are living on the stretch, but without the option of public transport. What kind of future road does not have a public transport option?" rued another resident.

KAUSHIK JN

No parking space

Lack of parking space is adding to the woes. Traders, in the past, have highlighted an unprecedented business loss after the project.

"While BMTC buses do not enter the stretch, a lack of parking space leads to private vehicles avoiding it too. The business loss that traders are facing is astronomical. Footfall has gone down drastically, and side roads are facing the brunt.

The few private vehicles that decide to shop here use side roads to park their vehicles. This is proving inconvenient for residents on these stretches," said a shop owner on Gandhi Bazaar Main Road.

HC orders autopsy of migrant labourer killed in alleged encounter

The Karnataka High Court on Tuesday directed the state government to conduct a post-mortem of a migrant labourer from Bihar who was allegedly shot dead by police in an encounter on April 13 in Hubballi.

Ritesh Kumar had been accused of murdering a five-year-old girl in the city, and police claimed he was killed while trying to flee custody.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice N V Anjaria and Justice K V Aravind issued the order while hearing a petition filed by the People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL), Karnataka.

The Court emphasised the need to adhere to the Supreme Court's 2014 guidelines regarding deaths caused by police action.

The bench ordered that the post-mortem be conducted by two doctors at a local hospital.

"Videography must be done throughout the procedure, and samples from the body should be preserved for possible use in further investigations," the Court stated.

Senior advocate Aditya Sondhi, representing PUCL, informed the Court about the nature of the allegations against the deceased and the circumstances surrounding the alleged encounter.

"We are not making any adversarial claims at this stage. Our request is only to ensure compliance with mandatory guidelines," he submitted, seeking interim relief to preserve the body, citing concerns about a possible cremation.

In response, Advocate General Shashi Kiran Shetty, appearing for the State, said an FIR had already been registered and that the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) was probing the case.

He clarified that there was no plan to cremate the body.

"In such cases, burial is done—not cremation—so that the body can be exhumed later if necessary. The body will only be handed over to the family for burial after identification," he said. Taking note of this assurance, the bench observed that the petitioner's concern regarding cremation was unfounded.

The Court has issued notices to the respondents, returnable by April 24. **PTI**

Karnataka truckers' strike to continue despite Minister's assurances

The indefinite truckers' strike across Karnataka entered its second day with no signs of resolution, even after a meeting between the lorry owners' association and Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy. While the minister assured that the contentious ₹15,000 fee for fitness renewal of 15-year-old vehicles would be dropped, he maintained that other key demands, such as removal of border check posts would be examined by a committee over the next three months.

However, the assurances have not convinced the Federation of Karnataka State Lorry Owners and Agents Association (FKSLOAA), which confirmed that the strike will continue more rigorously until all demands are addressed. The association is pressing for the closure of RTO checkposts at state borders, similar to Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh and a complete rollback of the recent diesel price hike and toll charges.

Currently, nearly 80% of goods transport operations in the state have come to a halt, severely affecting logistics. Trucks are stationed at hubs like Yeshwanthpur RMC Yard, with vehicles from other states such as Tamil Nadu halted mid-transit. While essential services including milk, medicines, LPG, and ambulances remain unaffected, the association has warned that any further disruptions will be the government's responsibility.

The truckers' strike has drawn support from over 60 transport and taxi unions, including airport cab associations, amplifying pressure on the state government. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is expected to hold further consultations with transport officials to defuse the crisis.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, Riyaz Ahamed R/o No.39, Sirsi road, 6th cross, Chamarajapet, Bengaluru 560018 have changed my name to Riyaz Ahmed. I shall declare by this name for all purpose

I, Abdul Khadar Shaik Hyder residing at No. 30/1 3rd Cross,Ittige Anjinappa Lane, Mysore Road,Old Pension Mohalla Chamarajpet Bengaluru-560018. I have changed my name to Shaik Abdul Khadar. Vide affidavit Dated 15/04/2025 sworn before notary.Onkarappa N R. Bengaluru.

I, Aditya Shenvi, S/o, Anil Ramanath Shenvi, R/o, #24, Gangadhar Layout, Vijayanagar, B'luru - 560040 have changed my name to Aditya Anil Shenvi For All Purposes.

I, Anusha Mahaveer Chand, w/o Dhiraj Kumar Dugar, R/o Flat No-102, Luv Khush Apts, 88 Diagonal Road, V.V Puram, B'luru- 560004 have changed my name to Anusha Dhiraj Kumar Dugar for all purposes.

I, Nethravathi R/O AP004, 3rd Floor, Atreum Pearl, NGEF Layout, Sanjaynagar, Bengaluru- 560094 changed my name from Nethravathi Poojari to Nethravathi for all future purposes.

I Kamil Ahmed S/O, Syed Nasiruddin Mahmood R/o #107, 3rd Cross, 3rd Stage Pillania Garden , Bangalore 560045 have changed my name to Syed Kamil Ahmed for all purposes, as per affidavit dated 7 April 2025.

I, Asfak Habib Derdiwala S/o Abdul Habeeb R/o D4, HMT 7th avenue, Thanisandra road, Ashwathnagar, B'luru 560077 have changed my name Ashfak Abdul Habeed Derdiwala Affidavit Dt.15/04/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Nithya Shree Umesh D/o Umesh R/o No.87, Huthanahalli, Chikkajala, Bengaluru 562157 have changed my name to Nithya Shree Affidavit Dt.15/04/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, MUKESH HUKMARAM CHAUDHARY R/a Site No.15/2, 2nd Floor, Bhavan Gangotri Enclave, 3rd Phase, Maragondanahalli, KR Puram, Bengaluru -36,. Have Changed To CHAUDHARY MUKESH. Vide Affi Dt: 15.04.2025. Sworn Before Notary: Devaraju.E

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Tricky name game to fool victims

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

'Apps promise easy money', cyber experts:

According to cyber experts, online betting apps lure millions with promises of easy money and quick wins. Typically, these platforms allow users to register for a nominal fee, enable transactions via popular UPI platforms and offer monetary rewards.

These platforms often operate outside regulatory frameworks, they use fake details, foreign servers, and quick money transfers to do illegal things. Many of them look like famous apps or have tricky names to fool people and avoid getting caught.

"Betting apps prey on the allure of quick riches, using flashy promotions and promises of easy money to draw people in. They exploit psychological vulnerabilities, creating a false sense of control while trapping users in addictive cycles.

This leads to devastating consequences, financial ruin, emotional distress, and broken families. Many lose their savings chasing illusions, and the unregulated nature of these platforms often leaves victims vulnerable to fraud, data theft, and exploitation by criminal networks", said Mirza Faizan Assad, Cybercrime & Privacy Law Expert.

The unchecked rise of online betting apps has had serious consequences, especially for young people and those from economically weaker backgrounds. Many users have lost huge amounts of money, and tragically, some cases of suicide have been linked to gambling-related losses.

Legal pushback

To curb the menace, the Karnataka government passed a bill banning online betting and gaming in October 2021. However, the Karnataka High Court struck it down after legal challenges from gaming companies. The matter is now pending in the Supreme Court.

On the national front, the Central Government stepped in by empowering the Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI) in January 2023 to monitor and take action against such platforms under the Online Gaming Providers framework, part of a larger initiative to regulate the growing digital economy.

"The Karnataka government's 2021 ban on online betting was a bold move, but its reversal by the High Court shows the tricky balance between regulation and industry interests.

With the case now in the Supreme Court, the verdict could shape digital gaming laws. Meanwhile, the Centre's 2023 step to empower the DGGI is a practical shift, but enforcement is tough, and without a unified national policy, tackling illegal operators remains a major challenge," the cybercrime and legal expert further stated.

Although names of the blocked apps haven't been revealed due to legal reasons, officials confirm that the crackdown is far from over.

Cybercrime and tax enforcement teams are now focusing on dismantling these illegal digital gambling networks and rolling out tighter checks on identity verification, money flow, and content moderation in the online gaming space.

HEALTH TIP: Sapota (chikoo) contains a large amount of Vitamin A, which protects against age-related vision loss

Cinnamaldehyde, a compound in cinnamon, lends it potent anti-diabetic properties as well as numerous other health benefits

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TECH BOOST FOR BRAIN

New study finds no evidence technology causes 'digital dementia' in older people

In the 21st century, digital technology has changed many aspects of our lives. Generative artificial intelligence (AI) is the latest newcomer, with chatbots and other AI tools changing how we learn and creating considerable philosophical and legal challenges regarding what it means to "outsource thinking".

But the emergence of technology that changes the way we live is not a new issue. The change from analogue to digital technology began around the 1960s and this "digital revolution" is what brought us the internet. An entire generation of people who lived and worked through this evolution are now entering their early 80s.

So what can we learn from them about the impact of technology on the ageing brain? A comprehensive new study from researchers at the University of Texas and Baylor University in the United States provides important answers.

Published today in Nature Human Behaviour, it found no supporting evidence for the "digital dementia" hypothesis. In fact, it found the use of computers, smartphones and the internet among people over 50 might actually be associated with lower rates of cognitive decline.

What is 'digital dementia'?

Much has been written about the potential negative impact from technology on the human brain.

According to the "digital dementia" hypothesis introduced by German neuroscientist and psychiatrist Manfred Spitzer in 2012, increased use of digital devices has resulted in an over-reliance on technology. In turn, this has weakened our overall cognitive ability.

Three areas of concern regarding the use of technology have previously been noted:

An increase in passive screen time. This refers to technology use which does not require significant thought or participation, such as watching TV or scrolling social media.

Offloading cognitive abilities to technology, such as no longer memorising phone numbers because they are kept in our contact list.

Increased susceptibility to distraction.

Why is this new study important?

We know technology can impact how our brain develops. But the effect of technology on how our brain ages is less understood.

This new study by neuropsychologists Jared Benge and Michael Scullin is important because it examines the impact of technology on older people who have experienced significant changes in the way they use technology across their life.

The new study performed what is known as a meta-analysis where the results of many previous studies are combined. The authors searched for studies examining technology use in people aged over 50 and examined the association with cognitive decline or dementia. They found 57 studies which included data from more than 411,000 adults. The included studies measured cognitive decline based on lower performance on cognitive tests or a diagnosis of dementia.

A reduced risk of cognitive decline

Overall, the study found greater use of technology was associated with a reduced risk of cognitive decline. Statistical tests were used to determine the "odds" of having cognitive decline based on exposure to technology. An odds ratio under 1 indicates a reduced risk from exposure and the combined odds ratio in this study was 0.42. This means higher use of technology was associated with a 58% risk reduction for cognitive decline.

This benefit was found even when the effect of other things known to contribute to cognitive decline, such as socioeconomic status and other health factors, were accounted for.

Interestingly, the magnitude of the effect of technology use on brain function found in this study was similar or stronger than other known protective factors, such as physical activity (approximately a 35% risk reduction), or maintaining a healthy blood pressure (approximately a 13% risk reduction).

However, it is important to understand that there are far more studies conducted over many years examining the benefits of managing blood pressure and increasing physical activity, and the mechanisms through which they help protect our brains are far more understood.

It is also a lot easier to measure blood pressure than it is use of technology. A strength of this study is that it considered these difficulties by focusing on certain aspects of technology use but excluded others such as brain training games.

These findings are encouraging. But we still can't say technology use causes better cognitive function. More research is needed to see if these findings are replicated in different groups of people (especially those from low and middle income countries) who were underrepresented in this study, and to understand why this relationship might occur.

A question of 'how' we use technology

In reality, it's simply not feasible to live in the world today without using some form of technology. Everything from paying bills to booking our next holiday is now almost completely done online. Maybe we should instead be thinking about how we use technology.

Cognitively stimulating activities such as reading, learning a new language and playing music – particularly in early adulthood – can help protect our brains as we age.

Greater engagement with technology across our lifespan may be a form of stimulating our memory and thinking, as we adapt to new software updates or learn how to use a new smartphone. It has been suggested this "technological reserve" may be good for our brains.

Technology may also help us to stay socially connected, and help us stay independent for longer.

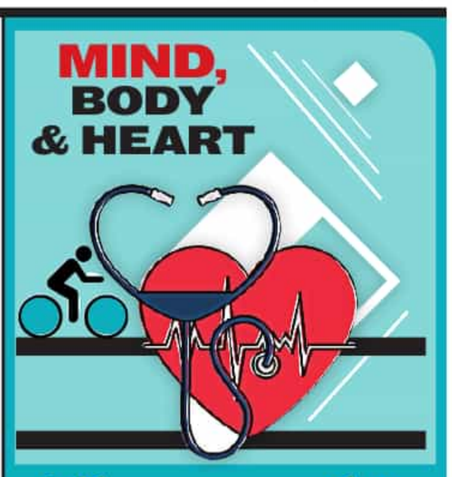
A rapidly changing digital world

While findings from this study show it's unlikely all digital technology is bad for us, the way we interact and rely on it is rapidly changing

The impact of AI on the ageing brain will only become evident in future decades. However, our ability to adapt to historical technological innovations, and the potential for this to support cognitive function, suggests the future may not be all bad.

For example, advances in brain-computer interfaces offer new hope for those experiencing the impact of neurological disease or disability. However, the potential downsides of technology are real, particularly for younger people, including poor mental health. Future research will help determine how we can capture the benefits of technology while limiting the potential for harm.

(By Nikki-Anne Wilson, UNSW Sydney, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Extreme heat

Mental health effect

Rising temperatures may not only affect physical health, but could also increase the burden of mental and behavioural disorders (MBD) like schizophrenia and depression by almost 50 per cent by 2050, according to a new study.

Need to act

The research led by the University of Adelaide highlights the urgent need to act now to protect mental health as the climate warms. Published in the journal Nature Climate Change, the study shows that high temperatures contributed to an annual loss of 8,458 disability-adjusted life years (DALYs), representing 1.8 per cent of the total MBD burden in Australia.

Young at risk

Young people aged 15 to 44 are particularly affected, with most losses linked to living with poor mental health. "The detrimental impacts of climate change on good mental health and emotional states have been increasingly recognised worldwide, and it's only going to get worse unless we act," said lead author Professor Peng Bi, from the University's School of Public Health.

What are MBDs

MBDs encompass a broad spectrum of symptoms associated with distress or impairment in important functional areas, including an individual's emotional regulation, cognition, or behaviour, anxiety, depression, bipolar, schizophrenia, alcohol, drug use, and other mental and substance use disorders.

"From mild distress to serious conditions like schizophrenia, rising temperatures are making things harder for millions," said Professor Bi.

The study found that warmer regions, like those closer to the equator, face higher risks.

"These results underscore the crucial role of policymakers in developing focused public health interventions to minimise the emergence of mental health impacts of climate change, given its significant human, social and financial consequences," said Professor Bi. **—IANS**

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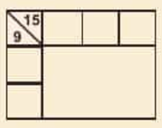
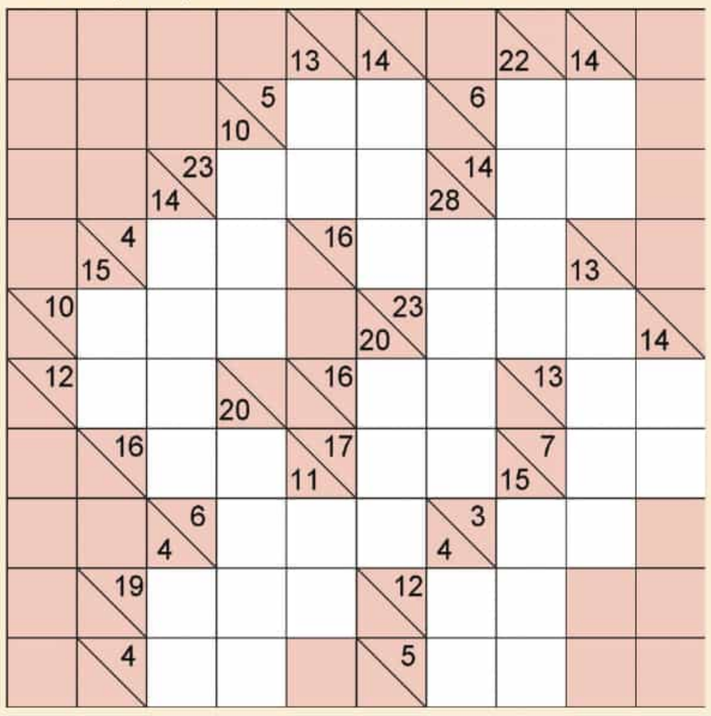
Kakuro

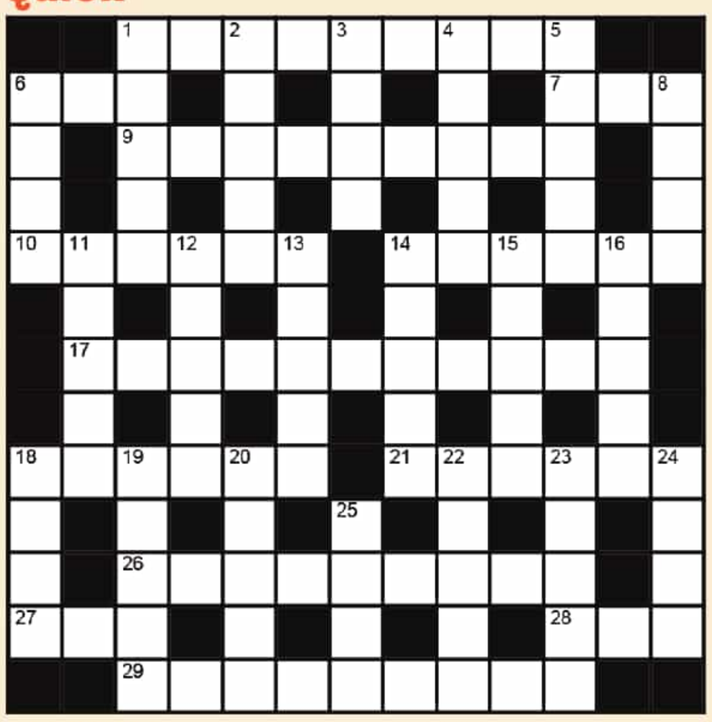
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Setting free (9)
6 Seed of a legume (3)
7 A kind of poem (3)
9 Residential area located between Hosur Road and Sarjapur Road (3,6)
10 Except or otherwise (6)
14 Means of curdling milk (6)
17 Inoculation (11)
18 Expertise in various jobs; abilities (6)
21 Accost and attack (6)
26 Shopkeepers (9)
27 China's ex-Chairman (3)
28 One as a prefix (3)
29 Bit by bit (9)

DOWN

1 Mr. Dravid of Indian cricket (5)
2 Lingers or loiters around (5)
3 Unfortunately (4)
4 Wishful words (1,4)
5 Advanced or made progress? (3,2)
6 Machu Picchu locale (4)
8 Modify the text (4)
11 Tennis legend ___ Djokovic (5)
12 Microsoft's spreadsheet software (5)
13 Mixes, agitates or shakes (5)
14 Lasso for the cowboy (5)
15 You should have these at your finger tips! (5)
16 Utter boredom (5)
18 Read superficially (4)
19 ___ ___ form: in good nick (2,3)
20 Rental contract (5)
22 French river (5)
23 Abolish (5)
24 Roman 57 (4)
25 A famous footballer (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: Q EQUALS D

SE SB TFE GTFDPU EF QF PFFQ; FTG IDBE QF SE EUG XSPUE CKJ.

Linemaro

You know, sometimes it's nice flirting with your eyes across the room for hours. But today ain't one of those times. Now, what's your name?

Mindchow

The causes of events are more interesting than the events themselves

Joke of the day

A conservative is a man who does not think that anything should be done for the first time

Loop

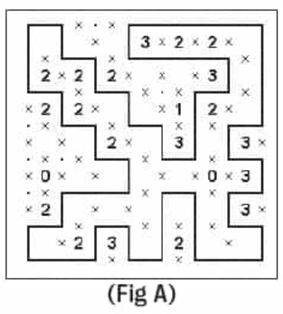
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

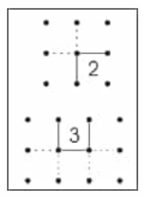
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

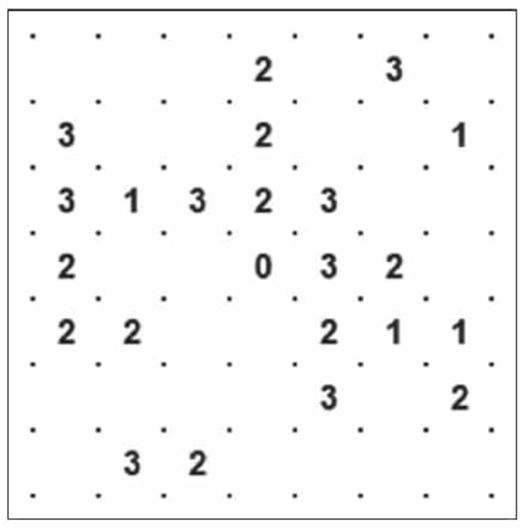
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



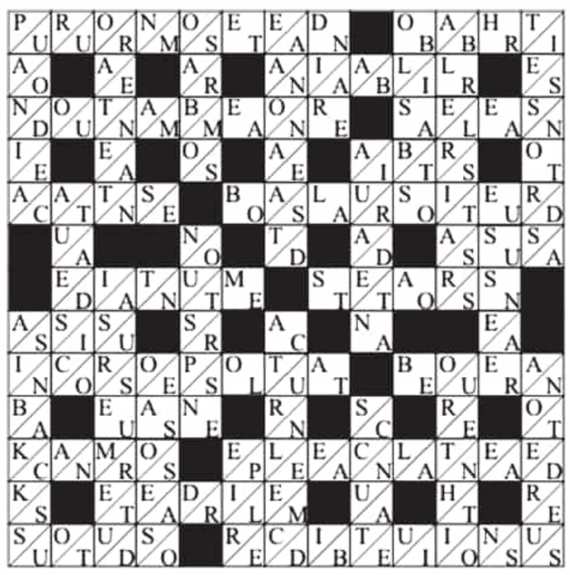
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



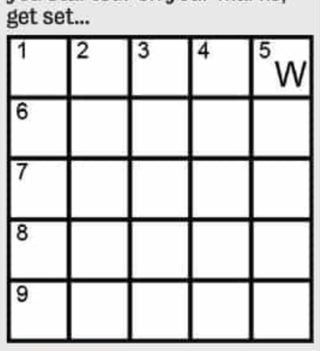
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

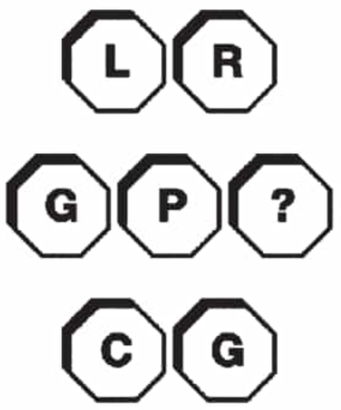
1 Warts; 6 OO! EEC;
7 Paras; 8 Cl lit;
9 Chase

DOWN

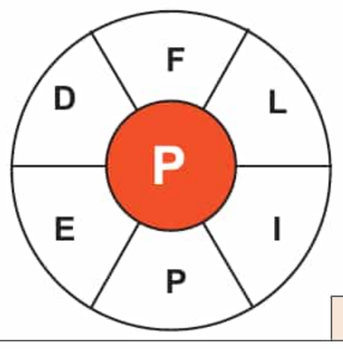
1 As lac; 2 Optic;
3 Orach; 4 A I ere;
5 Stews

Mensapuzzle

Which letter completes the puzzle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

06 Average; **07** Good; **09** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	3	1			5	4		
9			3		8	1		
						6	9	
				3	2	7	5	
	5						4	
	2	6	5	8				
	6	5						
		8	7		1			4
		7	6			3	1	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 22

2 6 6 8

Medium = 9

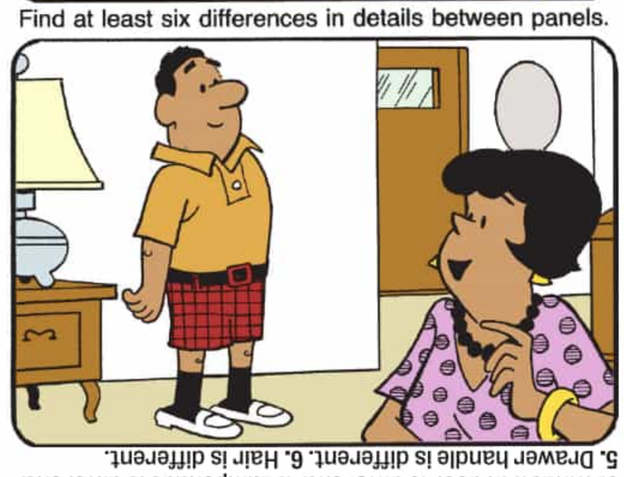
3 4 7 9

Hard = 13

1 3 4 6

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



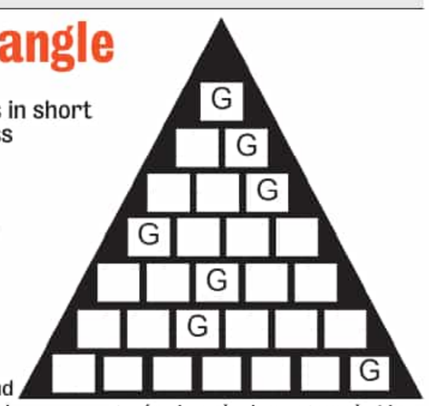
Differences: 1. Man's leg is moved. 2. Table leg is moved. 3. Window in door is different. 4. Lampshade is different. 5. Drawer handle is different. 6. Hair is different.

Riddler

It cannot be seen, it weighs nothing, but when put into a barrel, it makes it lighter. What is it?

Alpha triangle

1 1000 colloquially
2 Football faux pas in short
3 Swamp or morass
4 Elapse (2,2)
5 A golf score
6 Well in the past
7 Following orders

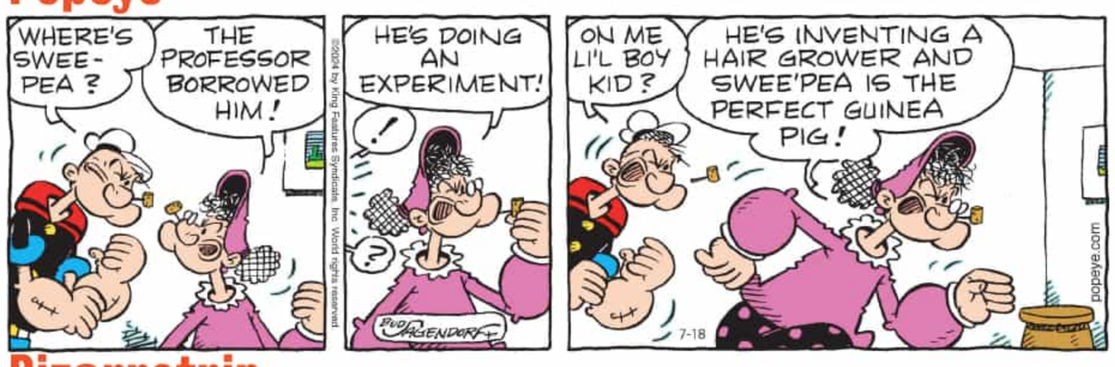


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye



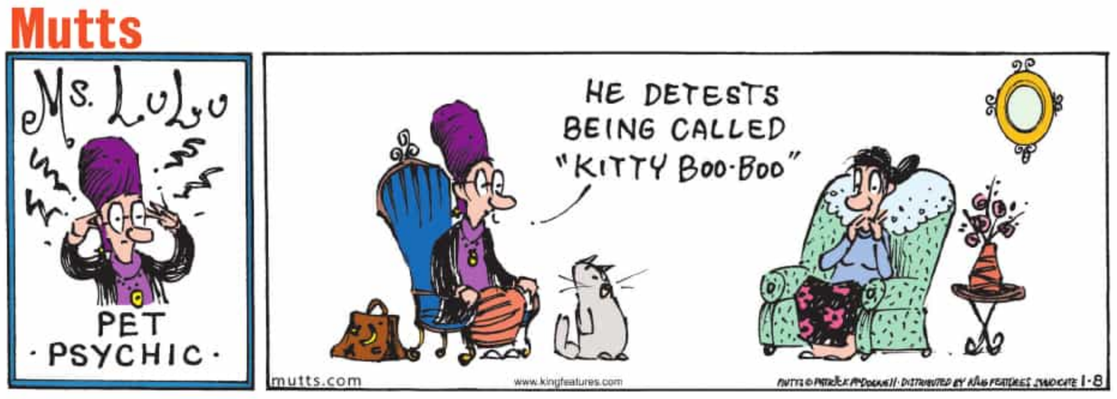
Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

Crankshaft

Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, things are under control, and you're likely to feel much better. You may plan an overseas trip, and your professional network could support you at work. Domestic life will be harmonious, and your creative side may shine, and perhaps you'll bring home some art or décor for your space. It's a good day to enjoy entertainment, like a movie or a fun outing with loved ones.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
As the week begins, financial gains are expected. You'll manage a healthy balance between income and expenses, which will strengthen your bank account. At work, your performance will improve, and your boss may entrust you with new responsibilities, possibly a promotion. Stuck money may return, and your confidence will help you overcome rivals. Health also looks favorable.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
You may feel inspired to renovate or redecorate your home, aiming to uplift your living space and social image. Harmony with your spouse brings peace at home. Old disputes with friends, co-workers, or partners may now be resolved. Positive news may arrive regarding legal matters.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
With a positive moon blessing you today, you'll feel healthier, and chronic issues might be resolved. Financially, stuck funds are likely to be recovered. You might also consider applying for a loan to make a luxury purchase.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Jupiter is favoring you today, bringing confidence and clarity. You'll make firm decisions without hesitation, and may seize new opportunities. Spending time or money on family and friends brings joy. Love is in the air for couples, and job seekers may find promising leads through friends.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
You might feel off today, both mentally and emotionally. A sense of dullness or arrogance could affect your relationships and productivity. A lack of confidence might hold back your creative efforts at work. Be kind to yourself and avoid major decisions today.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Your energy is high, and your productivity will reflect that. Hard work may now be rewarded, boosting your confidence. Disputes over property with siblings may be resolved, and meeting an influential person could expand your professional network.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
You're blessed by the moon, which lifts your spirits and boosts your charm. Your communication skills could help you land a big business order. You're polite and composed, enabling you to make important decisions with the support of colleagues.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
It's a great day filled with vitality and optimism. You'll enjoy your work and may share romantic moments with your partner, enhancing domestic peace. You might be inspired to start a new project and have the precision to map out its plan. Job seekers could find promising opportunities. Love birds should steer clear of unnecessary debates.

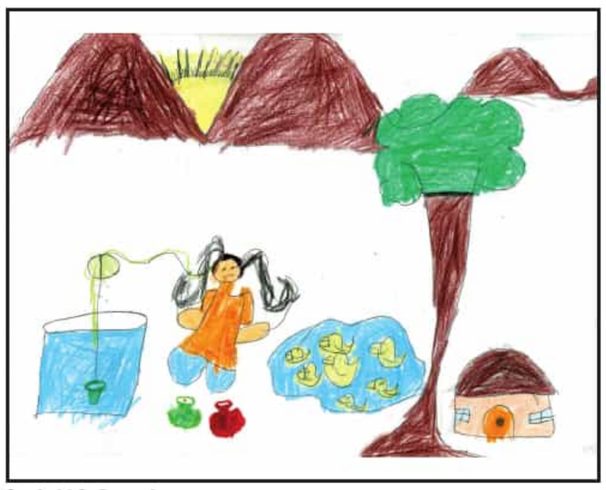
Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
You may feel a bit disappointed today. Avoid being arrogant, your words might lead to unwanted conflicts or losses. Be mindful in conversations, especially with your partner, to avoid damaging the relationship

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
A peaceful state of mind helps you make wise decisions today. Investing in your business could increase liquidity and bring financial growth. Romance flourishes in your home life, and singles may meet someone special. Love birds might even decide to take the next step toward marriage. Students are likely to be rewarded for their good karma.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Happiness surrounds you today. Previous losses may turn into gains, and your seniors may appreciate your efforts. Promotions or changes in role and responsibilities could be on the horizon. Your rivals seem to be quiet now. Singles and couples might make major decisions regarding marriage with support from friends and family.

KIDZONE

Ananya Vastare, Bengaluru



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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
= 3 x (3)^2 ÷ 9-12(1+1)^2
= 3 x 9÷9-48
= 3 x 1 (-48)
= 48 - 3 = 45

STRIKE OUT

P	R	O	M	O	T	E	D	■	B	A	H	T	■	■
A	■	A	■	R	■	N	I	A	L	■	L	E	■	■
N	O	T	A	B	E	N	E	■	A	L	A	N	■	■
I	■	E	■	S	■	E	■	A	B	S	■	O	■	■
C	A	N	E	■	B	A	L	L	U	S	T	E	R	■
■	■	U	■	N	■	D	■	D	■	A	S	S	■	■
■	D	A	T	U	M	■	T	E	A	R	S	■	■	■
S	I	S	■	R	■	C	■	N	■	■	A	■	■	■
N	O	S	E	S	O	U	T	■	B	O	R	N	■	■
A	■	U	A	E	■	R	■	R	■	S	■	O	■	■
C	A	M	S	■	P	L	A	C	A	T	E	D	■	■
K	■	E	E	R	I	E	■	A	■	H	■	E	■	■
S	O	D	S	■	E	D	I	T	I	O	N	S	■	■

QUICK

■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE
Y. Starting with the bottom left letter and moving in a clockwise spiral towards the centre, letters advance through the alphabet in steps of 4, 5, 6 etc.

QUOTE UNCODE
It is not enough to do good; one must do it the right way.

SUDOKU

6	3	1	2	9	5	4	8	7
9	7	4	3	6	8	1	2	5
5	8	2	1	7	4	6	9	3
8	1	9	4	3	2	7	5	6
7	5	3	9	1	6	8	4	2
4	2	6	5	8	7	9	3	1
1	6	5	8	4	3	2	7	9
3	9	8	7	2	1	5	6	4
2	4	7	6	5	9	3	1	8

ALPHA TRIANGLE
G, OG, Bog, Go
by, Bogey,
Bygone,
Obeying.

GO FIGURE
Easy
2 + 6 + 8 + 6 = 22
Medium
4 - 7 + 9 + 3 = 9
Hard
4 + 3 + 6 / 1 = 13

LOOP

KAKURO

■	■	4	1	3	■	4	1	3	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	9	3	7	9	■	3	9	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	1	2	3	4	2	1	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
2	5	■	7	9	8	9	7	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
4	9	■	8	4	9	7	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
14	6	9	8	9	■	8	7	2	1	■	■	■	■	■
10	7	4	7	8	9	■	6	1	5	■	■	■	■	■
■	9	5	■	9	6	4	■	4	1	3	■	■	■	■
■	■	5	9	■	1	5	4	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

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RIDDLER
flip, FLIPPED, pled, pile, piled, pipe, piped, pled, plied
A hole.

BULL'S EYE

S	T	R	A	W	S
C	O	O	E	E	E
A	P	A	R	S	S
L	I	C	I	T	T
A	C	H	E	S	E

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